

A. DONALD McEACHIN

4TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE

314 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6365

RICHMOND DISTRICT OFFICE

110 N. ROBINSON ST. SUITE 401
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23220
(804) 486-1840



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4604

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

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August 9, 2017

The Honorable Candice Jackson
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Civil Rights
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson,

Thank you for your response, dated July 26, to the two letters I sent to Secretary DeVos requesting an investigation into all documented disparities in the treatment of students who attend the public schools of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District. I am pleased to see that the serious issues I identified are being investigated, and that your office is taking steps to address disparate, discriminatory practices in our schools.

Mistreatment of our children is completely unacceptable – all students deserve to be treated equally and fairly. I request that the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the Department of Education keep me closely apprised of the status, progress, and eventual outcome of these important investigations, and that you share your expected timeline for completing them. I am also requesting a formal briefing on your most recent findings for myself and the members of the Fourth Congressional District's Education Taskforce, a community-based committee comprised of *15 education professionals, administrators, parents, attorneys, pediatricians, and child advocates*. The task force was convened to address the documented unjust and unwarranted disparities in student treatment at public schools in the Fourth Congressional District. On behalf of the many who are deeply invested in this longstanding issue, it is critical that I stay informed of new developments to ensure that the problems I have identified are fully addressed in a timely fashion.

I appreciate your consideration. I look forward to your updates and our formal briefing.

Sincerely,

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress, VA-04